The 95th meeting of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF 95) was held in Buenos Aires from 3 to 8 April. This event was a milestone - it was the first time the IETF met in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. Hosted by Internet Society and the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC), ICANN sponsored and participated in this activity.

The IETF is the main body engaged in the development of new Internet specifications. It is an unusual organization; to preserve the openness and transparency of its operations, the IETF has adopted no legal status. The Internet Society provides the operational framework for the IETF. To learn about how the IETF works, read the "Tao of IETF: A Novice's Guide to the Internet Engineering Task Force" (see translated versions).

The Buenos Aires meeting was a success. More than 1,000 people attended the event and, for the first time, Latin American participants were the second largest group in attendance.

Latin America was chosen to host IETF 95 as a result of the hard work and commitment of the Internet technical community in our region. In recent years, we've seen a gradual increase in regional participation in the IETF. This event validates our region's engagement.

Read more about IETF 95.

I invite you to get involved in the future of Internet engineering through the IETF mailing lists mentioned in the "Tao of IETF." You can also receive regional updates by subscribing to the IETF mailing list for the LAC region.

Sebastián Bellagamba, Regional Bureau Director for Latin America and the Caribbean
It's now been roughly two months since the submission of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition Package to the U.S. Government. Work is progressing to ensure that if the package is accepted, ICANN can implement any changes required by the proposals. The planned implementation work has been mapped across 14 projects and grouped into 3 tracks.

A focal point for ICANN and the community is the updating of ICANN's Bylaws. A draft of the new Bylaws has been posted for a 30-day public comment period, which ends on 21 May 2016. After the comments are analyzed and incorporated, the ICANN Board can consider adopting the new Bylaws by the end of May. Once the ICANN Board adopts any changes to the Bylaws, the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) can complete its anticipated 90-day review.

ICANN is also continuing joint planning efforts to remove NTIA's administrative role from the root zone management system. ICANN and Verisign completed system code changes and began a 90-day "parallel testing" period on 6 April 2016. This is a key step in ensuring the continued security and stability of the Root Zone Management System operation after the successful completion of the transition. Over a month has passed since the start of parallel testing, and everything is going smoothly.

Additionally, ICANN hopes to complete three other critical agreements this month:

- Service Level Agreement for the IANA Numbering Services
- Memorandum of Understanding Supplemental Agreement with the Internet Engineering Task Force
- Root Zone Maintainer Agreement

ICANN will make these documents publicly available when they are final.

To keep everyone informed on all these strands of implementation planning, ICANN has begun publishing weekly updates. We encourage anyone who is interested in the transition's implementation planning details to read the inaugural update.

NPOC Announces Elections for Executive Committee Positions

The Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC) will be holding elections for all positions on its Executive Committee:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretariat
- Membership Committee Chair
- Policy Committee Chair
- Communications Committee Chair

NPOC focuses on the impact of Internet and Domain Name System (DNS) policies on not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations with registered domain names. NPOC is the organization through which these groups can engage on how existing and proposed policies affect them.

Any member of NPOC who is in good standing may apply to become a nominee for a position. Position terms are not limited, so current members of the Executive Committee may also apply.
Nominations are open from 26 April to 26 May. Read about the election process and timeline.

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**ICANN’s New President and CEO Göran Marby Starts 23 May**

Göran Marby, an experienced business executive and government leader, joins ICANN as its President and Chief Executive Officer on 23 May. He will be based at our Los Angeles headquarters. Marby sat down with ICANN's Brad White to talk about his new appointment. “I'm very happy to be coming to this role right now. I see it as an important role, but it's a role within a community. I feel that I am part of an interesting and good team.” You can find the full interview on ICANN's YouTube channel or click here to watch.

Read more about Marby.

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**ICANN NextGen Candidates Selected for ICANN56**

Fifteen individuals from universities in Europe have been selected to participate at the ICANN56 Policy Forum in Helsinki, Finland, from 27-30 June 2016. These individuals are engaged in studies that encompass policy, business, technical, security, law and communications. Five additional selectees who attended a previous ICANN Public Meeting as NextGeners will serve as ambassadors.

Read the full announcement.

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**LAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS**

[Image of a group of people standing in a room, possibly discussing a presentation or event.]
**Governance Primer São Paulo**

A group of young Brazilian leaders involved in the Internet community conducted a training course in São Paulo, Brazil. Held on three Saturdays in April, the "Governance Primer" introduced students to basic Internet governance topics. An average of 25 students attended each session.

ICANN supported this activity, and Daniel Fink, Senior Manager of Stakeholder Engagement for Brazil, participated.

Visit the Governance Primer Facebook page (in Portuguese).

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**Caribbean Tech Community Gathers in Jamaica for CaribNOG 11**

The Caribbean Network Operators Group (CaribNOG) hosted this three-day event that focused on the development of the Internet in the Caribbean. CaribNOG is a forum where computer network and other technology professionals can exchange information, share best practices and participate in training and workshops. Albert Daniels, Senior Manager of Stakeholder Engagement for the Caribbean at ICANN, was a participant.

Read more information about CaribNOG 11.

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**ICANN and COMTELCA Sign an MoU on COMTELCA’s 50th Anniversary**

On 26 April, the Regional Technical Commission of Telecommunications (COMTELCA) celebrated the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Central American Telecommunications Treaty. (The 1966 treaty created COMTELCA.) Rodrigo de la Parra, ICANN’s VP for Latin America and the Caribbean, took part of the celebrations, which took place in Managua, Nicaragua.

At this event, ICANN and COMTELCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in which they agreed to collaborate on activities that promote the development of information and communications technology in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. Through collaboration, ICANN and COMTELCA hope to foster a regional network of stakeholders and decision-makers (including governments) that will contribute to ICANN's policy development processes.
First 2016 LAC-i-Roadshow Comes to Honduras

ICANN hosted the Mexico-Central America edition of the LAC-i-Roadshow in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, with more than 70 participants. The LAC-i-Roadshow was held alongside "LACNIC on the Move," an event organized by LACNIC.

The main topics discussed were the Internet ecosystem and the New generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program. The event also featured a panel on Internet governance with the participation of speakers from LACNIC, ISOC and ICANN.

The LAC-i-Roadshow is part of the LAC Strategy. ICANN stakeholder groups from the LAC region developed the LAC Strategy to raise awareness across the region on key topics related to the domain name system (DNS) critical infrastructure. Topics include the transition to Internet protocol version 6 (IPv6); security, stability and resiliency (SSR); and the impact of the new gTLD program. ICANN hosts four editions of the LAC-i-Roadshow per year: Mexico and Central America, South America, Andean States and the Caribbean.

The 2015 LAC Year in Review Report Is Out!

Relive all the LAC team's activities during 2015 in this comprehensive report, produced by ICANN's regional team.

Learn about Multistakeholder Policy Development

Policy recommendations are developed and refined by the ICANN Community through its Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. These groups are composed entirely of volunteers from across the world - working in a bottom-up, open and transparent process. Each Supporting Organization has its own specific policy development process. Learn more about this work in the new "Multistakeholder Policy Development" infographic!
GNSO Council Unanimously Adopts Review Feasibility and Prioritization Analysis
The GNSO Review Working Party reviewed the GNSO Review Independent Examiner’s Final Report. The report presented recommendations for improving GNSO processes. The reviewers gave detailed feedback on the priority and feasibility of all 36 recommendations. The Working Party Council adopted the assessment unanimously. It sent a letter to the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee, which will oversee the implementation process.

ccNSO Council Promotes Transparency
The Country Codes Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council recently adopted a resolution making all ccNSO, ccNSO Council or ccNSO-chartered working group meetings open to observers. This practice will apply unless a majority of the voting members present at the meeting resolves to close the meeting due to the confidential nature of agenda. Recordings, transcripts, notes and minutes are made publicly available after meetings. Consult the draft agenda of ccNSO sessions for ICANN56.

GAC Prepares for ICANN56
The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) recently finalized its agenda for ICANN56. Each morning will begin with a GAC working group session. The working group will then report back to the GAC plenary. Discussions will follow; issues could include:

- Preparations for future rounds of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs)
- Use of two-character country codes as second-level domains
- Protection of acronyms for intergovernmental organization

Afternoons will be dedicated to cross-community topic sessions. The GAC is also considering whether to present formal advice to the ICANN Board in a communiqué or in a letter. In view of the limited meeting time available, a letter may be more feasible, but the GAC has not yet made a final decision.

GNSO Council Formalizes GNSO Liaison to the GAC
The GNSO Council decided that beginning 1 July 2016, the role of GNSO Liaison to the GAC will become
permanent. The decision came after a successful trial period with Mason Cole serving as GNSO Liaison. The GNSO Council also adopted a request for candidates to fill the role, and will issue a call for volunteers soon.

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**ALAC Advises on Draft Budget and Updates to the Five-Year Operating Plan**

In a statement, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) noted the improvements in the FY17 Operating Plan & Budget. The ALAC highlighted several areas in need of further clarification, including:

- Operational responsibilities of the Post-Transition Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)
- Expenses related to strategic and operational planning
- Programs and projects categorized as “Support Operations”

Furthermore, the ALAC suggested ways to improve data presentation related to community support requests and variance analysis of the New gTLD Program. In addition to this statement, the ALAC also submitted a formal proposal requesting ICANN to establish a multiyear budget to facilitate the forward planning of Regional At-Large Organization General Assemblies and At-Large Summits.

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**ccNSO SOP Working Group Submits Comments on Draft Budget**

The ccNSO Strategic and Operational Planning Working Group (SOP WG) submitted public comments on the Draft FY17 Operating Plan and Budget. Their views do not necessarily represent the views of the ccNSO or country codes top-level domain (ccTLD) community at large. The ccNSO SOP WG looks forward to a discussion leading to further improvements to the document. Read their comments!

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**New gTLD Delegation Deadlines**

There are about 200 TLDs with New gTLD Program delegation deadlines approaching between now and the end of August 2016. The ICANN team is here to help registry operators navigate the final few steps toward the shared goal of delegation. For more information about delegation deadlines and tips on how to stay on track, read the blog.

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**IANA Functions, DNSSEC Audits: ICANN Systems Have Appropriate Controls**

For the sixth consecutive year, ICANN has achieved Service Organization Control (SOC) 3 certification for its management of the Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) Root Key Signing Key. Additionally, a SOC 2 audit of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) registry maintenance systems confirms that ICANN has the appropriate controls in place to ensure the security, availability and processing integrity of these systems. Learn more.
Twenty three new gTLDs delegated in April 2016

See the full list here: https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/delegated-strings

Carlos Raúl Gutiérrez

In 2015, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) appointed Carlos Raúl Gutiérrez a member of the team in charge of the Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice (CCT) Report. He acts as a liaison between the CCT and the policy development process for the subsequent processes of new top-level domains.

Together with his colleagues from GNSO and the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, Gutiérrez chairs the Working Group on the Use of Country and Territory Names.

In 2014, Gutiérrez was designated chair of the ISOC Costa Rica Chapter, which is part of the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO). He was also a member of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG), part of the GNSO. In October 2014, the Nominating Committee named him to a two-year term as a member of the GNSO Council.

In 2013, he was appointed a member of the team that prepared the Second Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT2) Report.

Carlos Raúl Gutiérrez was Costa Rica’s Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) representative from 2011 to early 2014. During this active period, the GAC issued early warnings and gave advice to the Board on the subject of the New gTLD Program.

On the eve of the ICANN43 Public Meeting in San Jose, Gutiérrez facilitated a day-long meeting for public decision-makers from the LAC region. The group discussed Internet-related issues - with the ICANN Board in the morning, and with the Internet Society (ISOC) Board in the afternoon. It was probably the first initiative of its kind; at the time there were no high-level meetings at ICANN with government representatives.
Spanish:

"Conversaciones en línea (Blog Lito Ibarra): La propuesta de la comunidad al gobierno de los Estados Unidos sobre Internet"

English, Spanish And Portuguese:

"Final Proposal for the IANA Stewardship Transition"

English:

"Caribbean Tech Community Gathers in Jamaica"

UPCOMING EVENTS

COM/CITEL meeting, 16 May 2016, San Salvador, El Salvador

IGF Uruguay, 17 May 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay

Internet Day- Conexion and SVnet, 17 May 2016, San Salvador, El Salvador

Internet Day at the Casa de Internet of Latin America and the Caribbean, 19 May 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay

II Jornadas y Expo Internet Day CABASE 2016, 17-18 May 2016, Buenos Aires, Argentina

4th Latin-American Telecommunications Congress, 20-23 June 2016, Cancun, Mexico

ICANN56, 27-30 June 2016, Helsinki, Finland
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